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BOX PCT

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According to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)

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In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98, Applicant respectfully requests that a citation and examination of the references identified on the attached PTO 1449 form be made during the course of examination of the above-identified application for United States Patent.

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The attached PTO 1449 form lists related art references for the above identified application, including those identified in the International Search Report, copy of which is enclosed herewith.

09/673746

534 Rec'd PCT/PTC 20 OCT 2000

EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCE

References AJ-AM and AQ were identified in the International Search Report and categorized in class A, with reference AM being additionally categorized in class P. References AN and AR are in German, but their relevance is adequately discussed in the specification. Full translations of any of the foreign references will be produced upon request of the Examiner.

The filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, and is not to be construed as an admission that the information cited in the present Information Disclosure Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

The above citation of prior art is not a representation that such art constitutes a complete or exhaustive listing of all pertinent prior art, nor that it necessarily includes the closest or most relevant art. The aforementioned citation comprises a voluntary citation of prior art of which applicant and his attorney are presently aware and is not intended to serve as a substitute for the Examiner's own search.

Submitted by,

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